



**DIVISION OF MINES
BOARD OF COAL MINING EXAMINERS
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

FIRST CLASS SHAFT OR SLOPE FOREMAN

Article 3 of the Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia establishes requirements for certification of coal mine workers. The certification requirements are included in §45.1-161.24 through §45.1-161.41 in which the Board of Coal Mining Examiners is established for the purpose of administering the certification program. The Board has promulgated certification regulations 4 VAC 25-20 (VR 480-04-2), which set the minimum standards and procedures required for Virginia coal miner examinations and certifications.

CERTIFICATION CLASSIFICATION: *First Class Shaft or Slope Foreman*

This certification authorizes a miner to:

- Perform duties as a certified shaft or slope foreman/examiner at shaft or slope operations
- Conduct and record findings on pre-shift, on-shift and weekly examinations

NOTE: This certification shall not be used in lieu of any other certification.

First Class Mine Foreman may conduct required examinations at shaft/slope locations.

APPLICATION/EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:

- Application (BCME-1) and \$10.00 fee 5 working days prior to examination
- Five years mining experience at a shaft or slope appropriately related work experience approved by the Chief of the Division of Mines
- Three years credit will be granted for mining engineering degree from an approved four year college or two years credit for a degree in mining technology
- Current first aid training (MSHA first aid 5000-23 acceptable)

EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS: A score of 80% on each element of the examination

<u>ELEMENTS OF EXAM</u>	<u>NUMBER OF QUESTIONS</u>
▪ Explosives (EX)	20
▪ First Aid (FA)	20
▪ Federal Regulations (FR)	20
▪ Hoisting (HT)	20
▪ Mine Gases (MG)	20
▪ Mining Laws (ML)	20
▪ Records – Practical – Pre-shift/On-shift (PO)	
▪ Gas Detection - practical demonstration	

▪ **RECOMMENDED REFERENCE/STUDY MATERIALS:**

- Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia
- BCME Requirements
- Title 30 CFR Part 50, 70, 75, 77
- First Class Mine Foreman Study Guide
- First Aid For Miners Study Guide
- Mine Gases Packet

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The above mentioned study materials are available at the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy's Big Stone Gap Office, Customer Assistance Center (276) 523-8233 and Keen Mountain Field Office (276) 498-4533.

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